

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

IO-10 AID-05 /071 W

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R 052140Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1070

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS AR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ARGENTINA

1. FONMIN TACK OF PANAMA ARRIVED IN BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 1 ON THE FIRST STOP IN A TOUR HE IS MAKING OF SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES JUST PRIOR TO THE OAS/GA TO REPORT ON THE PRESENT STATE OF US-PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PANAMA CANAL, AND, IN HIS OWN WORDS, "TO CONFIRM THE SUPPORT WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM LATIN AMERICA." OBLIQUELY SUGGESTING THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING OF A QUID PRO QUO INVOLVED, TACK SAID THAT HE WAS HERE ALSO TO VOICE PANAMA'S SUPPORT FOR ALEJANDRO ORFILA AS THE NEXT SECGEN OF THE OAS.
2. PRIVATELY, TACK ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH FONMIN VIGNES PANAMA'S HOPE THAT ARGENTINA WILL STEP ASIDE SO THAT PANAMA CAN HAVE THE SOON TO BE VACANT SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. (THIS, OBVIOUSLY, WAS THE REAL PRO QUO.)
3. TACK SPENT OVER AN HOUR WITH FONMIN VIGNES ON MAY 2. HE OBVIOUSLY (AND NOT SUPRISINGLY) SUCCEEDED IN HIS PRIMARY MISSION. AFTER THE DISCUSSION, BOTH HE AND VIGNES ANNOUNCED THAT ARGENTINA WILL CONTINUE TO

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GIVE PANAMA ITS FULL SUPPORT IN THE MATTER OF THE

PANAMA CANAL. TACK SUGGESTED, MOREOVER, THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE UPCOMING OAS/GA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT, TACK HAD NO SUCCESS. SOURCES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE TOLD US THAT VIGNES BUDGED NOT AT ALL, INSISTING THAT THE SEAT BELONGS TO ARGENTINA AND THAT ORFILA'S CANDIDACY IS NOT A RELATED ISSUE. THE ONE THING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER, HE ARGUED. SOURCES NOTED THAT ONLY IN EVENT THAT VOTING IN OAS SEEMED TO BE GOING AGAINST ORFILA WOULD THEY "NEGOTIATE" THE SC SEAT.

5. TACK DEPARTED MAY 3 FOR MONTEVIDEO, THE NEXT STOP ON HIS TOUR.
MONTLLOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS03109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0701
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750579/aaaactvh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ARGENTINA
TAGS: PFOR, AR, PN, PQ, OAS, UNSC, (TACK, JUAN ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006